

diani beach  
**art gallery**

*Contemporary African Art*

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AFFORDABLE ART EXHIBITION SELECTION

## IBRAHIM MUWANGA



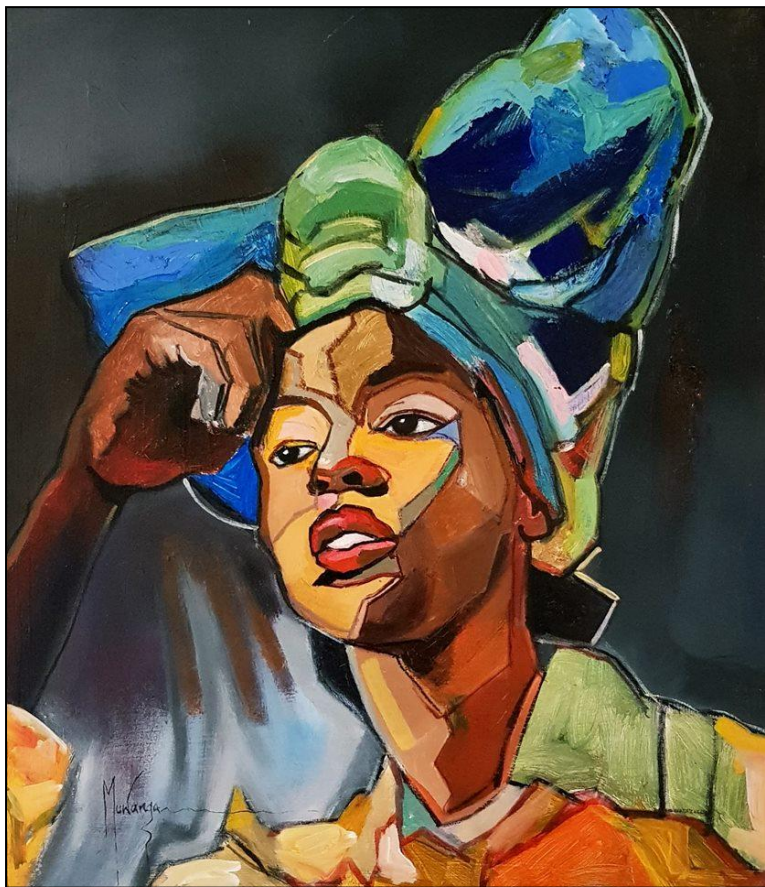
Born in a family of four children in Kampala, the capital of Uganda, Ibrahim was motivated to start creating art after observing his elder brother who loved illustrating cartoons.

The artist draws most of his inspiration from African children, where he is constantly trying to tell stories that he believes have never been told in a more artistic and attractive way.

The source of the stories vary, but most are memories of his journeys on the streets of Kampala, the schools he has attended and some scenes from everyday life in the African homestead.

Ibrahim's paintings feature playful, colourful hues that very aptly represent his subjects and the fun in the artwork. He uses them to symbolize vibrancy and energy and employs the impasto technique, which creates an outstanding visual impression.

Through his work, Ibrahim wants to remind us all about children's rights and challenges many to take up this duty. Ibrahim holds a bachelors degree in art and design from the Margaret Trowel School of Art and Design, Makerere University.



Ibrahim Muwanga  
African Head Wrap Series 6&7  
Mixed media on canvas  
25cm x 30cm  
USD 450 each





Ibrahim Muwanga  
African Head Wrap Series 5  
Mixed media on canvas  
40cm x 60cm  
USD 840



## YASSIR ALI



Yassir Ali is a Sudanese artist who is currently living in Nairobi, Kenya. He graduated in 1997 from the Fine Art Department of Sudan University for Science and Technology.

His art work is inspired by Nubian culture. He uses the Nubian motifs colours and atmosphere. His paintings are intense and full of texture dotted with patches of vibrant paint on an already bright canvas. Yassir's work is loaded with colours of blue, red, ochre and orange. 'These are the colours of the Nubian people and they occupy the subject in my works'.

On why all his art works are untitled, the artist says "I do not like confining my ideas to a subject. My art can speak for itself without me having to interpret it to anyone."

Since 1998 Yassir has been involved in many projects for Sudanese children, for example Nafage Art Workshop at Abd elKarim Mirghani Cultural Center (AKMCC), Sudan. He is also responsible for promoting help for displaced and deprived children since 2000 for organization called Children's Culture of AKMCC.

He is also member of the Almada Art Group Union for Sudanese Artist and member of Kuona Trust in Nairobi.



Yassir Ali  
 Untitled series 9-12  
 Framed  
 Mixed Media  
 70cm x 70cm  
 USD 600 each





Yassir Ali  
The Elements 1-4  
Mixed Media  
60cm x 60cm  
USD 800 each



## SSALI YUSUF



Ssali Yusuf is a Ugandan artist born in 1983 at Kireka, Wakiso district. He studied Industrial & Fine Arts graduating with a BA Degree from Makerere University in Uganda.

Ssali started painting full time in 2003, after he had practiced his skills with different artists in Uganda. His inspiration comes from day to day activities done mainly by African women and cultural goings-on in African societies.

Yusuf uses oil and acrylic on canvas, but once in a while he likes to use bark cloth, a popular medium in his homeland. His paintings are rich in dark hues of royal purple and navy blue, with generous additions of warm shades to create a buffet of colour that is unmistakably the artist's signature.

He has exhibited his works at numerous galleries including the Makerere University art gallery, Tulifanya Art Gallery, Afriart Gallery, Aid child, Gallery Watatu Nairobi, RAMOMA Museum of art Nairobi, Evere commune Brussels Belgium, Rue-Dela Madeleine 17, Brussels, NATTA Art in East Europe, Holland Boxmeer, and others.

As a professional artist, Ssali prays that he leaves the earth with a legacy of works and to be known as a world-famous painter.



Ssali Yusuf  
Umoja Ladies  
Acrylics on canvas  
90cm x 70cm  
USD 840





**Ssali Yusuf**  
**Days of Love Letters**  
 Acrylics on canvas  
 90cm x 70cm  
 USD 790



**Ssali Yusuf**  
**Umoja Ladies**  
 Acrylics on canvas  
 90cm x 70cm  
 USD 790



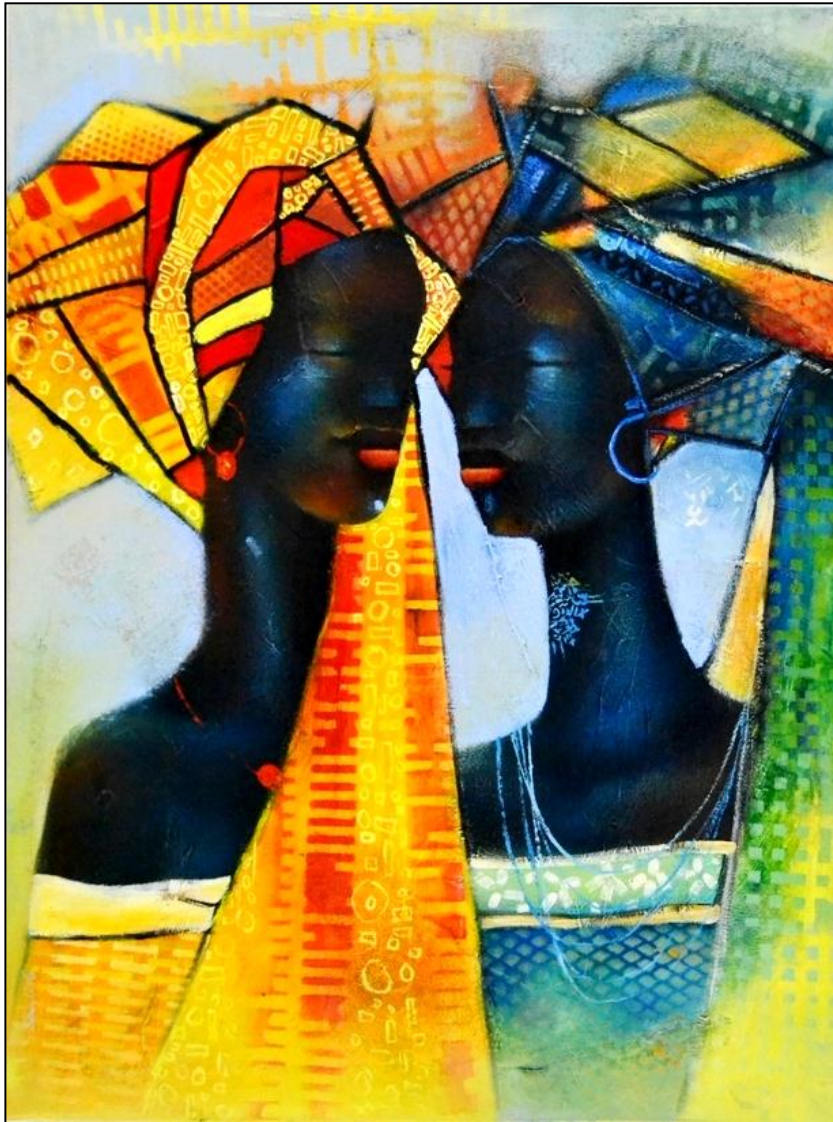


Ssali Yusuf  
Beauty of Turban  
Acrylics on canvas  
90cm x 70cm  
USD 790

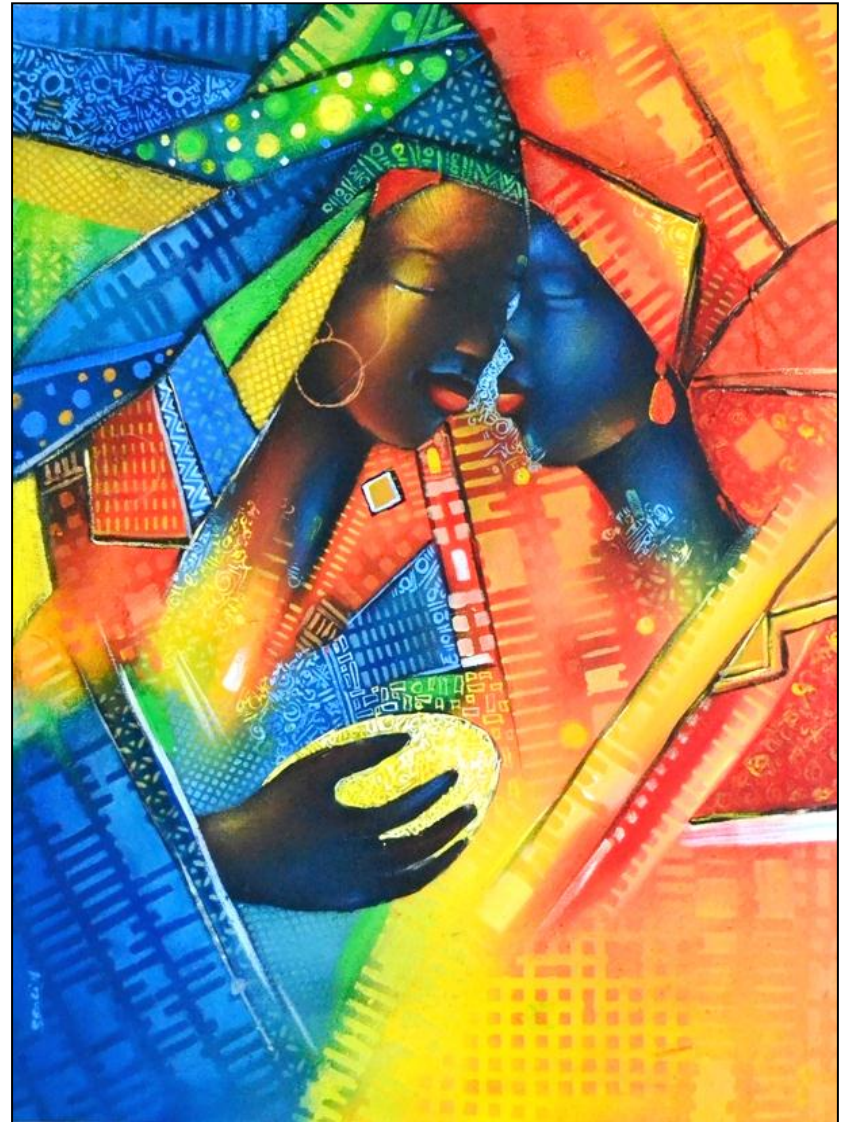


Ssali Yusuf  
Thoughts of Marriage  
Acrylics on canvas  
90cm x 70cm  
USD 790





Ssali Yusuf  
Conclusion  
Acrylics on canvas  
60cm x 80cm  
USD 790



Ssali Yusuf  
Beginning of Freedom  
Acrylics on canvas  
60cm x 80cm  
USD 790





Ssali Yusuf  
Peace to Emancipation  
Acrylics on canvas  
80cm x 60cm  
USD 790



Ssali Yusuf  
Story Telling  
Acrylics on canvas  
80cm x 60cm  
USD 940



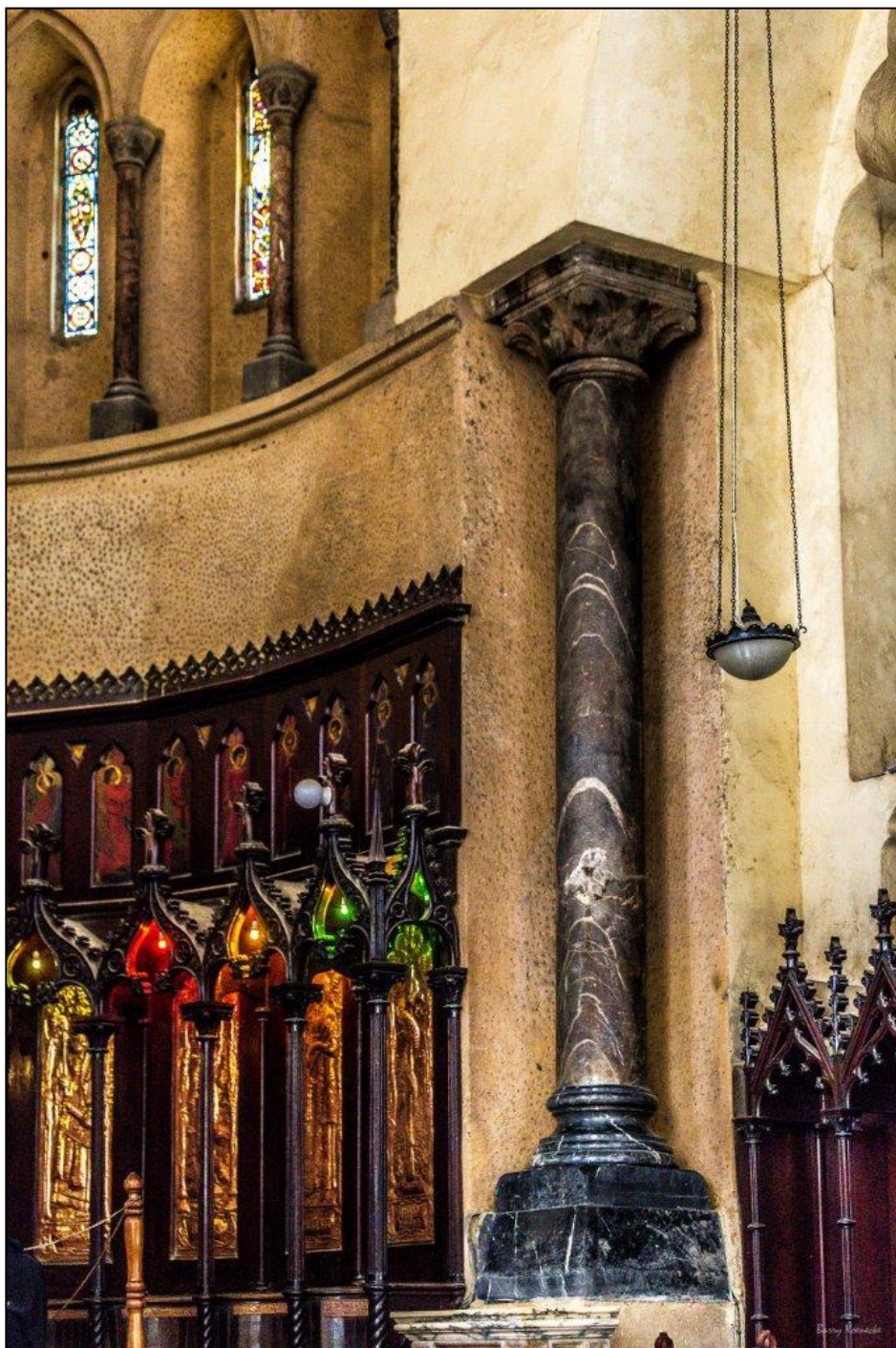


## BARRY KOENECKE

Barry Koenecke tells us that he was born in Kisumu but moved to Mombasa when he was only seven days old. Raised at the Kenyan coast, he loves walking the streets of our coastal towns, taking photos of every day coastal scenes. Most of his shoots are executed in Lamu, Zanzibar or Malindi.

With beautiful compositions; a black and white image of a lonesome boat bobbing in humble waters or a colourful coastal alleyway or old, ornate doorway, all of Koenecke's photographs are printed using archival inks on high quality canvas using a technique that makes a lot of the pictures look like paintings. In this way, they transform from being mere prints to hauntingly beautiful works of art.

Barry has had successful exhibitions all over the country and more recently a one month show at The Talisman Restaurant where his pieces were well received by art enthusiasts and patrons alike.



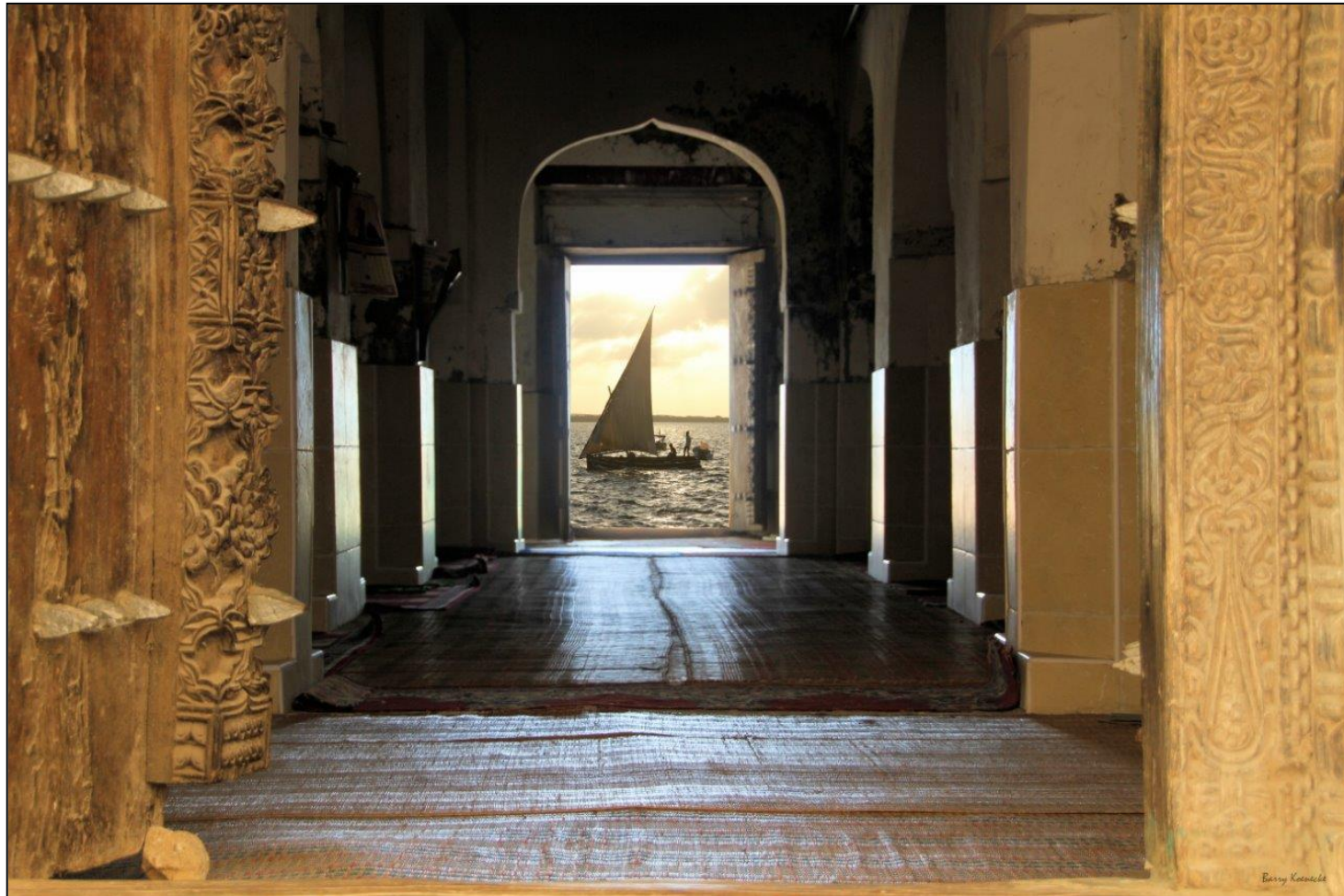
Barry Koenecke  
Architecture  
Photograph on Canvas  
90cm x 134cm  
USD 440



Barry Koenecke  
Swahili Women  
Photograph on Canvas  
90cm x 134cm  
USD 440







Barry Koenecke  
Friday Mosque  
Photograph on Canvas  
90cm x 60cm  
USD 270



**Barry Koenecke**  
**Six Men In A Boat**  
**Photograph on Canvas**  
**90cm x 60cm**  
**USD 270**





Barry Koenecke  
Wazee Wawili  
Photograph on Canvas  
60cm x 90cm  
USD 270



Barry Koenecke  
Bao  
Photograph on Canvas  
60cm x 90cm  
USD 270



## BEN PLAYLE

The artist and furniture designer Ben Playle draws his influence from the traditional African designs of the communities in which he lives. For the past two years he has developed his own style of stenciling, observing urban and rural life on the move in Kigali, Rwanda.

Ben graduated from Leeds Metropolitan University in 1997 with a degree in 3D design, specializing in furniture. He then joined a community art group working with local councils and schools in Brighton, England. The workshop was established shortly after, designing one-off pieces and furniture on commission.

He has since taken his workshop to Swaziland, Ethiopia and Rwanda, countries in which he has lived and worked since 2001.

Always keen to pass on skills to others, Ben led the 'Good Wood' movement in Addis Ababa, training up furniture cooperatives to produce high quality designs for local sale.

Ben has had three solo art exhibitions in Rwanda, using the graffiti artist medium of spray cans and stencils. The Cans to Canvas series captures life in the densely populated hills of Rwanda, where the bicycle taxi is the main source of transportation.

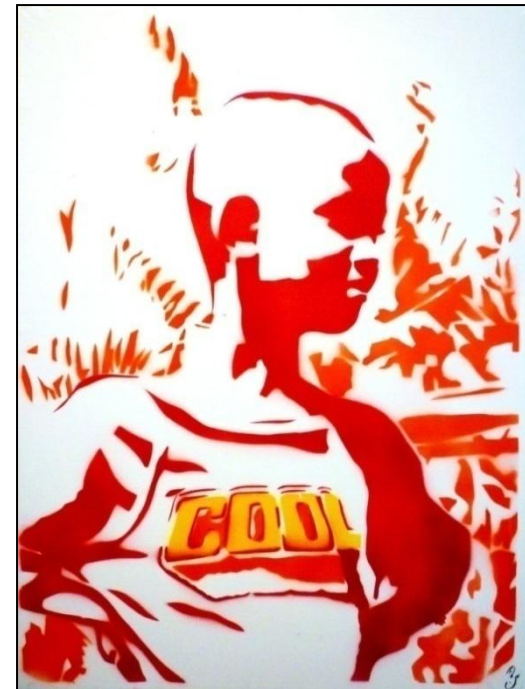
His work is a familiar sight in galleries in Kigali, with profiles in local media including the East African and Rwandan New Times. The fourth and final Cans to Canvas exhibition will be held in Kigali mid-year.

Ben will soon move to New York, where he will continue to use the medium of spray can art to capture observations of city life.





Ben Playle  
Black Mamba Bicycle Series  
Spray paints on canvas  
51cm x 51cm  
USD 400 each



Ben Playle  
Bombogo Cool 1-4  
Spray paints on canvas  
50cm x 69cm  
USD 300 each





Ben Playle  
Gasabo Sunday Best 1-2  
Spray paints on canvas  
38cm x 64cm  
USD 400 each



Ben Playle  
Zebras  
Spray paints on khangas  
40cm x 40cm  
USD 250 each





## RICHARD KURIA

Richard Njogu is a 24 year old artist, raised in Bungoma town. He started painting at an early age but discovered a deeper love for it while in high school, where art was offered as part of the course work.

His four years of artistic practice so far has seen him attempt various techniques. Until recently, almost all of his artworks were in graphite and charcoal. But in early 2015, he started experimenting with different techniques and mediums, including acrylic paints and oil pastels.

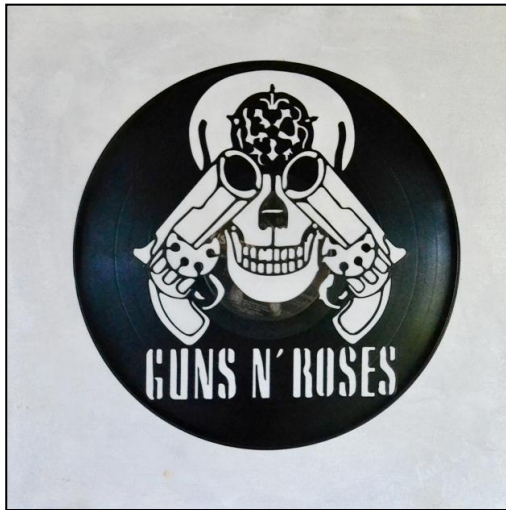
So far, Richard has been able to participate in various group exhibitions and has successfully hung a collaborative exhibition, titled “The Untold Exhibition” in August 2015. He also participated in a joint exhibition with Clavers Odhiambo in February 2016, titled “The Red Exhibition”

The artist says he has a deep desire to be creative, which means that he finds himself experimenting a lot with different mediums and techniques. He believes that having a range of original and new ideas and concepts is conducive for growth as an artist.

Various music genres are also a big part of his artistic life, mainly as a source of inspiration. To combine those two factors (art and music), Richard decided to use vinyl records on which he painted various musical icons as a way of celebrating the influence they have had on people all over the world.

Richard is highly intrigued by human figures, especially female forms, where he tries to capture light and shadow, the texture, the form and the shapes of human figures. In his opinion, it is the beauty of light that makes a work realistic. The body language and the emotions also play an important role in the figurative paintings he has done.

Richard holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Project Planning and Management from Moi University, Eldoret.



Richard Kuria  
Various Artists  
Cut Vinyl Record on Board  
40cm x 40cm  
USD 275 Each



## SELE AMOUR



Sele's art beautifully captures the atmosphere of Stone Town in Zanzibar, his birthplace, where shadows play in the narrow streets and alleyways.

These shadows and his keen eye for detail make for a great application of his colours of choice – black and white, and the transient use of grayscales.

As a self-taught artist, whose only education in the arts was a five week long introductory course in visual arts, his use of perspective and the fine depiction of the people within give his work a feeling of life, as if one could just step into the painting and would find oneself in the middle of the maze of lanes which form Stone Town.

Sele was born in 1981; he finished his secondary education in 1999. As a professional artist Sele participated in a group exhibition at the Aga Khan Cultural Centre in Zanzibar in 2003.

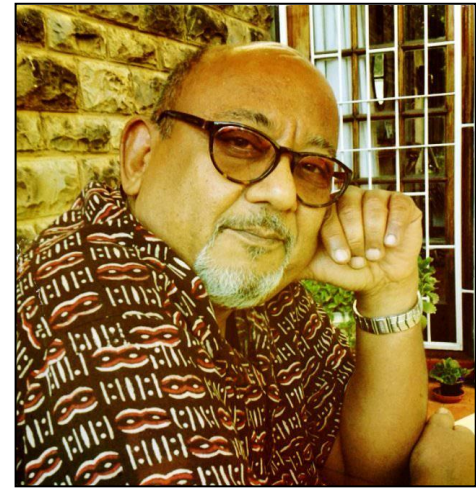


Sele Amour  
Hurumzi Street  
Oil on Canvas  
67cm x 93cm  
USD 700





Sele Amour  
Soko Muhogo Street  
Oil on Canvas  
63cm x 85cm  
USD 700



## KAMAL SHAH

Born 1953 Nairobi, Kenya Shah holds a degree in English Literature and Fine Arts and also has a postgraduate Diploma in Textile Design from the University of Leeds, U.K.

He ran the Rowland Ward Gallery in Nairobi in the early 1980's and in the mid 80's he was a founding member and art-director of Kichaka, a multimedia workshop specializing in the printing of avant-garde African textiles. In the mid 1990's he decided to forgo his other commitments to paint full time.

Winner of the mixed media award during the Contemporary Art in Kenya Juried Competition & at the Alliance Française & Goethe-Institute in 2005, Kamal Shah is a renowned artist whose mixed media work is very much recognized.

His work is a story full of colour and strong visual textures. Although all his works are untitled, Kamal's ultimate impression is to allow his work to speak to his audience without giving itself easily away by placing a title to it.



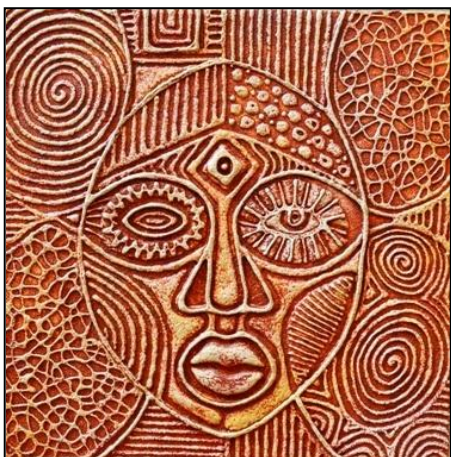
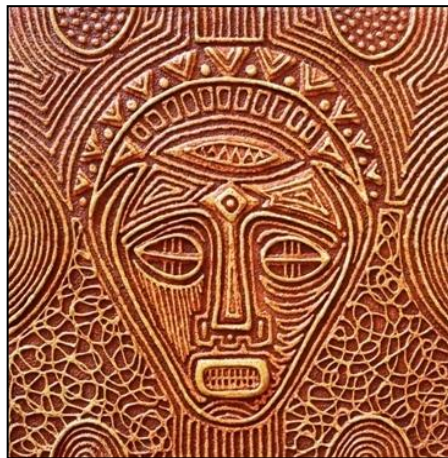
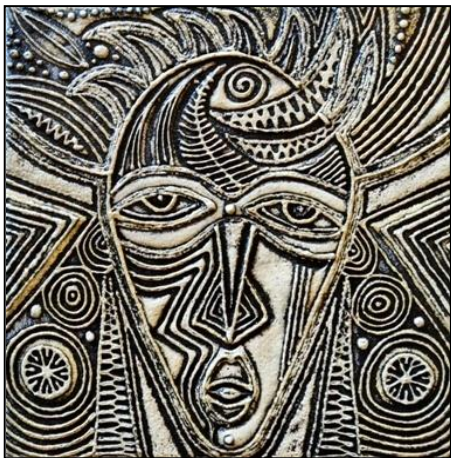
Kamal Shah  
Nude 1  
Mixed media on board  
51cm x 61cm  
USD 900



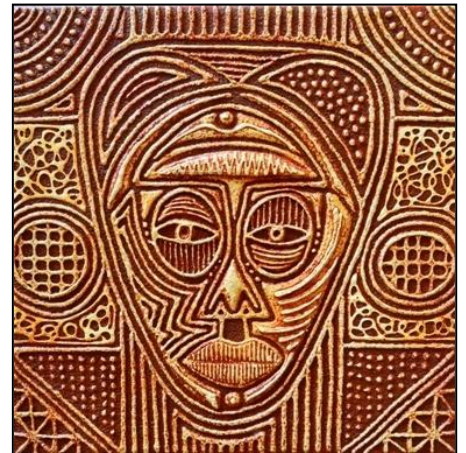
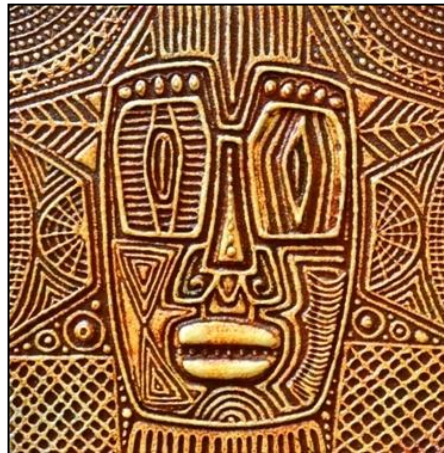
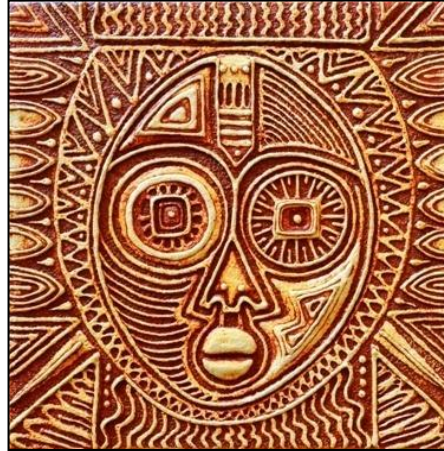


Kamal Shah  
Nude 2  
Mixed media on board  
51cm x 61cm  
USD 900



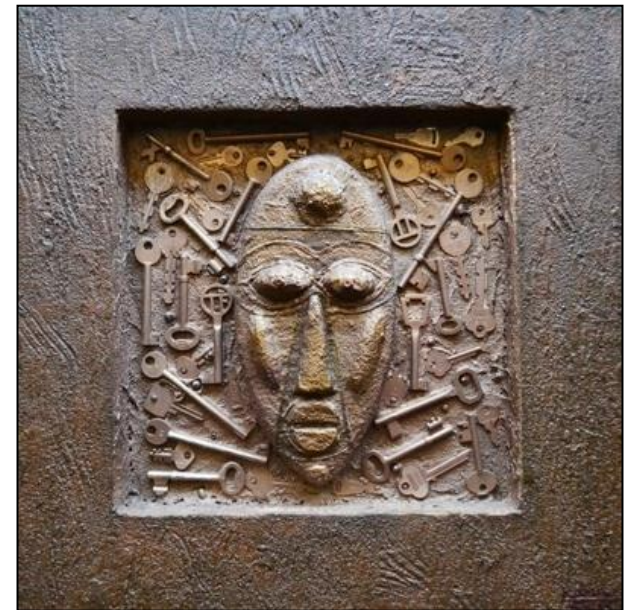


Kamal Shah  
Mask Face Series 1-4  
Mixed media on board  
30cm x 30cm  
USD 315 each



Kamal Shah  
Mask Face Series 5-8  
Mixed media on board  
30cm x 30cm  
USD 315 each





Kamal Shah  
Face and Key Series 1-3  
Mixed media on board  
40cm x 40cm  
USD 625 each



## GEORGE KABONGE

Kabonge George Wasswa is a Ugandan visual artist born in 1990 as a twin in Mukono district. He attended both primary and secondary levels of education where he practiced various artistic skills of production.

He specialized in painting where he paints in pointillism a style that is characterized of vibrant dots of tints and shades of colour. His subject matter is mostly attached to the contemporary social environment around him with themes range from the traditional African contemporary music; wildlife daily life activities and these have been presented both in semi abstract and abstract forms.

He paints with acrylics and oil colors on canvas. He is a highly motivated and passionate painter who works with fellow artists and other people of different societies.

He has participated in various art exhibitions in Uganda where he has shared his artistic experiences with fellow artists and people in society.

He holds a bachelor's Degree in vocational studies art and design with education from Kyambogo University where he acquired formal education. He is a secondary school teacher and a practicing painter as well



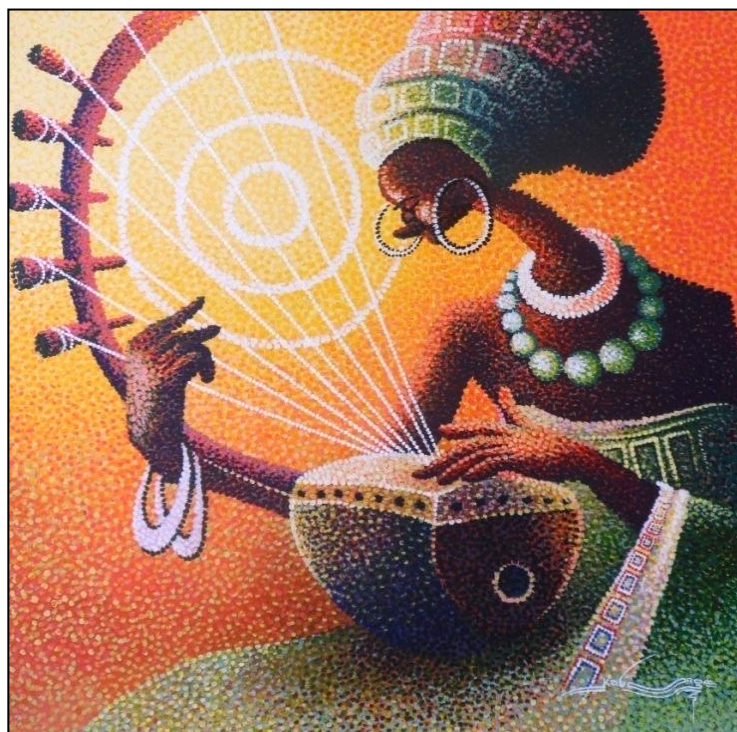


George Kabonge  
Diversification  
Acrylic on canvas  
100cm x 70cm  
USD 530





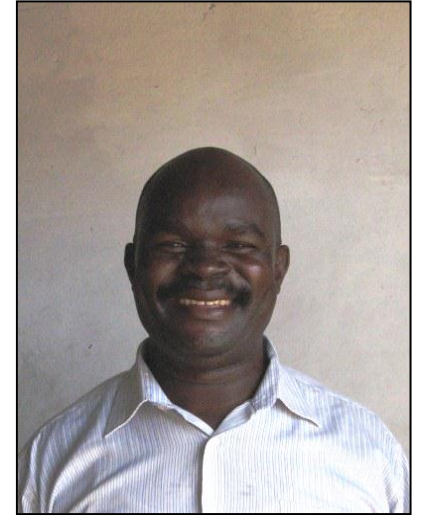
George Kabonge  
 Hopeful  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 75cm x 70cm  
 USD 370



George Kabonge  
 The Harpist  
 Acrylic on canvas  
 70cm x 60cm  
 USD 370

## TOM ONEYA

There are very few clay sculptors in developing countries like Kenya. This is because the training is not diversified enough to show and encourage the potential of artists and to help further their talents.



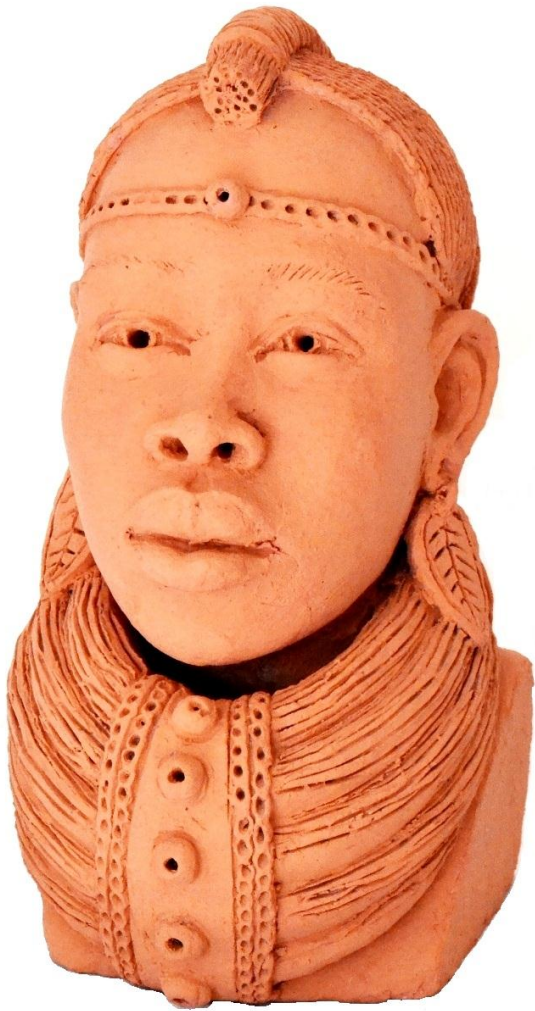
However, born in the early 1960's Tom Otieno Oneya already developed a strong interest in the art of clay sculpture in his young childhood years. He had no proper art teacher throughout his primary level of education, a factor that did not hinder the progress of his unique talent in working with this medium.

A new wind of positive transformation on Oneya's quality of art blew when he joined Nyabondo High School for his secondary education.

At this school Tom managed to join a group of young and talented artist under the tutelage of the late Father Leo Bartels of Nyabondo Mission in Kisumu district. Under the guidance of Father Leo, Tom could develop and hone his skills in the fine art of clay sculpturing.

After completing his secondary education Tom joined the Agoro Sare High school. He was admitted as the only student for the subject of Art. The lack of peers did not discourage him in his passion for the subject, and he enjoyed the focus and attention of an art teacher hired especially for him.

Finally, Oneya joined the Kenya Polytechnic in 1989 for his Diploma Course in Graphic Design. Tom decided to become a fulltime artist after he successfully completed his college training and now works full time as a clay sculptor.

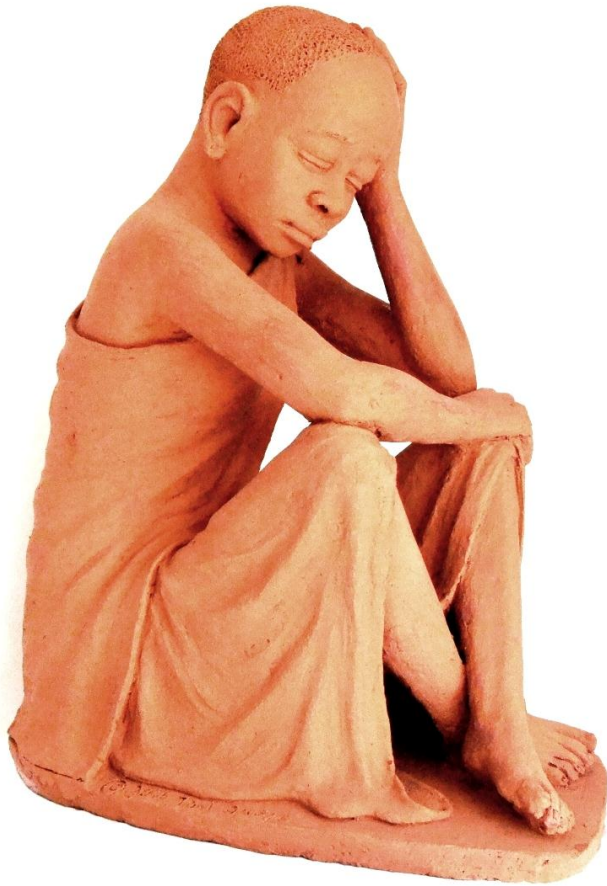


**Tom Oneya**  
**Rendile Woman**  
**Clay sculpture**  
**27cm x 29cm x 43cm**  
**USD 270**

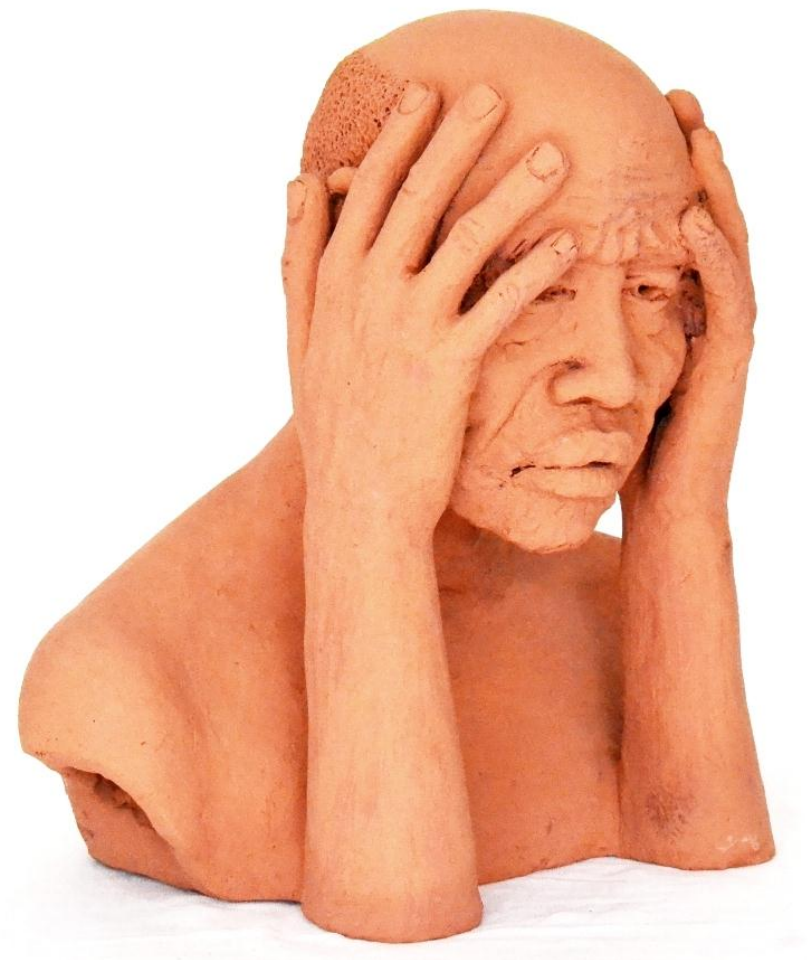


**Tom Oneya**  
**Rendile Woman**  
**Clay sculpture**  
**29cm x 31cm x 44cm**  
**USD 270**





Tom Oneya  
Stop FGM  
Clay sculpture  
31cm x 41cm x 53cm  
USD 370



Tom Oneya  
Thinker  
Clay sculpture  
33cm x 39cm x 49cm  
USD 270

Tom Oneya  
Strength of a Woman  
Clay sculpture  
21cm x 29cm x 63cm  
USD 270





**Tom Oneya**  
**Maasai Warrior 1**  
Clay sculpture  
21cm x 19cm x 49cm  
USD 190



**Tom Oneya**  
**Turkana Woman With Baby**  
Clay sculpture  
20cm x 18cm x 52cm  
USD 190





**Tom Oneya**  
**Thinking Bald Man**  
Clay sculpture  
23cm x 19cm x 31cm  
USD 190



**Tom Oneya**  
**Breastfeeding Maasai Woman**  
Clay sculpture  
25cm x 17cm x 33cm  
USD 190



Tom Oneya  
Treasure hunter  
Clay sculpture  
30cm x 18cm x 19cm  
USD 190



Tom Oneya  
Vuvuzela  
Clay sculpture  
30cm x 18cm x 15cm  
USD 190





Tom Oneya  
Thinking Maasai woman  
Clay sculpture  
27cm x 20cm x 30cm  
USD 190



Tom Oneya  
Maasai Warrior 2  
Clay sculpture  
21cm x 17cm x 57cm  
USD 190



Tom Oneya  
Turkana Woman With Baby On Back  
Clay sculpture  
18cm x 17cm x 51cm  
USD 190



## KEPHA MOSOTI



As a youth, Kepha started honing his artistic skills by figure, nature and landscape drawing, but the urge to sculpt grew more and more as years went by. He is now one of Kenya's foremost sculptors.

Nyanza province and Kisii in particular, where Kepha was born and raised, has a rich history of curving and sculpting, and this had a great influence in his career as an artist.

His wooden and mixed media sculptures are characterized by a blend of both realism and abstract forms. Using fire sometimes, he achieves remarkable results as the wood and its features are accentuated by burning them and later brushing off the edges.

On occasion, Kepha downs his sculpting tools and takes on brushes and paints, a practice he says is liberating. He however leans more toward sculpting as he feels 3 dimensional pieces readily express emotion, including features and expressions on the human face. He favors the human form too saying he relates to it better than anything else.

Kepha also makes exemplary pieces based on footwear, with some that have socio-political stories behind them. The sculptor is heavily inspired by fellow Kenyan artists Cyrus Kabiru and particularly Dennis Muraguri, who he shares similar themes. He holds a Diploma in Fine Arts from the Buruburu Institute of Fine Arts and currently works on his pieces at his studio in the Kenyan capital; Nairobi



Kepha Mosoti  
Supermodel 1 & 2  
Wooden sculpture  
10cm x 12cm x 50cm  
USD 365



Kepha Mosoti  
High top shoes  
Wooden sculpture  
16cm x 53cm x 14cm  
USD 425





Kepha Mosoti  
African Beauty  
Wooden sculpture  
17cm x 18cm x 64cm  
USD 550



Kepha Mosoti  
Fertility  
Wooden sculpture  
16cm x 23cm x 47cm  
USD 425



## SAID ALI SWABU

Said Ali Swabu was born and raised in the house of one of Lamu's most distinguished mid-20th century master calligrapher, Hafiz Quran, who was also a talented wood carver and Swahili plaster work craftsman.

The youngest child of Ali Swabu (the prolific craftsman), Said learnt most of his traditional Swahili construction techniques from his father who made sure to pass on his knowledge to his son.

Through an apprenticeship and training at the Swahili Art Centre, and his own ingenuity, Said was able to master the art of wood carving and plaster work at a very tender age. He spent a lot of time in his father's workshop in Lamu's Old Town.

Said went to school in Lamu and then enrolled for a Diploma in Mechanical Engineering at the Mombasa Polytechnic. After completion of his studies he established a workshop in Old Town Mombasa continuing with his family's tradition of wood carving and plaster work.

Through the years he has worked with a number of architects and well known interior designers from all over Kenya. Some of his Swahili furniture and plaster work decoration can be seen in five star hotels around East Africa, i.e. at Whitesands Sarova, Leopard Beach Hotel, Pinewoods, and Southern Palm Beach Resort. In Zanzibar his work is can be seen at Blue Bay, Sultan Sands, and Royal Zanzibar Beach Resort.

Recently, Said has been working on designing the interior of his dream house in Lamu, Beyt Salaam (The House of Peace). The house is a showcase of his mastery in art and interior design.

The Diani Beach Art Gallery plaster work signs seen on the staircase leading up to the Gallery and next to the entrance are Said's work.





Said Swabu  
Lamu Mirror 1  
Hardwood  
15cm x 60cm x 90cm  
USD 390



Said Swabu  
Lamu Mirror 1  
Hardwood  
15cm x 60cm x 90cm  
USD 390





Said Swabu  
Miniature Kashas  
Hardwood  
10cm x 23cm x 20cm  
From USD 22 – USD 40



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